

Message Text

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61

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13

AID-05 SAM-01 DHA-02 ORM-02 MCT-01 SSM-03 /084 W

----- 053656

R 311402Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2848

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TEL AVIV 5983

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR PINS IS JO

SUBJ: MINISTER OF DEFENSE PERES CRITICIZES GUSH EMUNIM

REF: JERUSALEM 1120, TEL AVIV 5752

1. DURING A SPECIAL KNESSET SESSION AUGUST 30 CALLED TO DISCUSS THE THREATENED NURSES' STRIKE, DEFENSE MINISTER PERES VIGOROUSLY CRITICIZED THE GUSH EMUNIM. REPLYING TO A OTION BY LIKUD MK GEULA COHEN TO PROTEST THE GOVERNMENT'S REFUSAL TO ALLOW JEWISH PRAYERS IN A FORMER SYNAGOGUE IN HEBRON (JERUSALEM 1120), PERES DESCRIBED THE GUSH EMUNIM AS "SHORT-TERM DEMONSTRATIVE SETTLERS FLITTING FROM ROOFTOP TO ROOFTOP AND HILL TO HILL IN THE MANNER OF A TORCH RELAY". PERES SAID THAT PRAYER ATTEMPTS IN HEBRON BY THE GUSH EMUNIM WERE AGAINST THE LAW AND GOVERNMENT POLICY. HE ALSO CITED NUMEROUS COMPLAINTS FROM THE MAJORITY OF KIRYAT ARBA RESIDENTS ABOUT ACTIVITIES BEING CONDUCTED BY THE MINORITY THERE (GUSH EMUNIM).

2. COMMENT: PERES' LATEST STATEMENT ON THE HEBRON PRAYER ISSUE-- ONE QUITE CONSISTENT WITH HIS PREVIOUS DECLARATIONS ON THE SUBJECT
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(TEL AVIV 5752)--CAME ON A DAY WHEN THE GUSH EMUNIM MADE ANOTHER OF A SERIES OF UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORTS TO EXPAND BEYOND THE LIMITS OF

KIRYAT ARBA. THE COMPARISON OF THE GUSH EMUNIM TO A TORCH
RELAY IS DOUBLY AMUSING BECAUSE PERES IS WIDELY BELIEVED TO BE
NOT UNSYMPATHETIC TO THE GUSH EMUNIM'S UNAUTHORIZED "SETTLEMENT"
WITHIN THE QADOUM ARMY ENCAMPMENT.
TOON

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Message Attributes

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04 MAY 2006

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To: STATE
Type: TE
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